

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 PRS-01

L-03 ACDA-07 EUR-12 /068 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:EMFEATHERSTONE:JCM

APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL

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DOD/ISA - MR. ABRAMOWITZ

S/S-O SSTEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

COMUSJAPAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 239432

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: MIG-25

REFS: (1) TOKYO 14327; (2) COMUSJAPAN DTG 261100Z

1. DEPARTMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTS POINTS DCM MADE TO MOFA
REPS (PARA 4 REFTL 1).

2. IN VIEW OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETE
INTELLIGENCE EXPLOITATION OF MIG-25, AMBASSADOR SHOULD
SEEK APPOINTMENT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE SEPTEMBER 27 WITH
PRIME MINISTER MIKI TO URGE THAT A THOROUGH EXAMINATION
OF THE AIRCRAFT BE PERMITTED. AMBASSADOR SHOULD USE
FOLLOWING AS HE DEEMS APPROPRIATE:

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(A) US TECHNICAL JUDGMENT IS THAT CESSATION OF DIRECT ACCESS TO MIG-25 AT 2400 SEPTEMBER 28 (TOKYO TIME) WOULD LEAVE EXAMINATION ONLY 50 PERCENT COMPLETED. AT LEAST SEVERAL MORE DAYS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES, WHICH ARE ALSO OF DIRECT INTEREST TO THE JAPANESE.

(B) WE APPRECIATE GOJ EFFORT TO RETURN AIRCRAFT WITHIN SAME GENERAL TIME PERIOD AS WAS CASE WITH SIMILAR

INCIDENTS IN EUROPE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IN MOST CASES, SOVIET/EAST EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT HELD IN EUROPE WERE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED PRIOR TO RETURN AND IN SOME CASES RETURNED WITHOUT MANY COMPONENTS. US USUALLY HAD ALMOST IMMEDIATE ACCESS. ALTHOUGH GOJ HAS HAD MIG-25 FOR ALMOST THREE WEEKS, US HAS HAD ACCESS FOR SCARCELY ONE WEEK.

(C) WHILE WE APPRECIATE JAPANESE WILLINGNESS TO MAKE AVAILABLE RESULTS OF THEIR OWN CONTINUED EXAMINATION OF AIRCRAFT, WE BELIEVE THAT PARTICIPATION IN EXAMINATION BY HIGHLY TRAINED US EXPERTS WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH VERY SOPHISTICATED AVIONICS AND OTHER SYSTEMS WHICH MAY BE INVOLVED IS ESSENTIAL TO ADEQUATE EXPLOITATION. WE UNDERSTAND JAPANESE TECHNICIANS SHARE THIS BELIEF.

(D) AS GOJ WELL AWARE, MIG-25 IS MAJOR POTENTIAL ADVERSARY AIRCRAFT OF BOTH US AND JAPAN AS WELL AS NATO AND OTHER ALLIES. INFORMATION GLEANED FROM THOROUGH EXAMINATION WOULD BE OF INESTIMABLE VALUE IN IMPROVING AIR DEFENSE, HOPEFULLY INCLUDING MEASURES WHICH WOULD MAKE MORE DIFFICULT FUTURE VIOLATIONS OF THIS TYPE OF JAPAN'S AIR SPACE.

(E) SOVIETS ARE ALREADY UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS ENTIRE EPISODE. GOJ COMMITMENT TO RETURN AIRCRAFT NEED NOT HAVE A SHORT TERMINAL DATE OR INCLUDE EXCLUSION OF US ACCESS IN ORDER TO SERVE JAPANESE DIPLOMATIC OBJECTIVES WHEN KOSAKA MEETS GROMYKO. IT SEEMS TO US THAT A FEW DAYS MORE WOULD MAKE LITTLE DIFFERENCE AT THIS POINT. WE SEE
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NO REAL GAIN FOR GOJ IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH SOVS BY ABRUPTLY CUTTING OFF US ACCESS ON SEPTEMBER 28 WHEN KOSAKA MEETS WITH GROMYKO, WHEN IT APPEARS TO US THAT JAPANESE PURPOSES COULD EQUALLY BE SERVED BY USING MEETING TO SET DATE FOR EVENTUAL RETURN. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT HIGHEST LEVELS IN US GOVERNMENT CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT FULLEST EXPLOITATION OF POSSESSION OF AIRCRAFT IS A MATTER OF HIGH PRIORITY AND WE COUNT ON

JAPANESE COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, DEFECTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE239432
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EMFEATHERSTONE:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760363-1018
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760918/aaaaapnv.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TOKYO 14327
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIG-25
TAGS: MARR, JA, US, UR
To: TOKYO CINCPAC COMUS JAPAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006